



west virginia department of environmental protection

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Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
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July 25, 2012

Peter G. Markham, General Counsel
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Mr. Markham:

Enclosed is the After Action Review from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that you requested from Secretary Huffman on July 16th. The DEP had limited involvement in actual response activities during this emergency, apart from transporting supplies to areas of need. We were, however, witness to a great deal of thought, effort, and accomplishment put forth by all that we worked with in this unprecedented disaster. That said, any response of this magnitude can always be improved upon, and the agency's comments are noted in the enclosed document.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this improvement exercise. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

H. Michael Dorsey, Chief
Homeland Security & Emergency Response

HMD/gcb

Enclosure

AFTER ACTION REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Agency/Commission: Department of Environmental Protection

Project/Event: Emergency response to storm-related state of emergency

Prepared by Mike Dorsey:

Date of Review: 07-18-12

In responding to the following question, please use addition sheets as necessary.

Key Participants:

NAME	JOB TITLE	ROLE IN EMERGENCY
Mike Dorsey	Chief, Homeland Security and Emergency Response	Oversight of DEP's role in emergency response
Rusty Joins	Emergency Response Unit Manager	Direct Supervision of responders

Please provide a detailed summary of your Agency/Commission's role in responding to the state of emergency.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) played a support role in this unusual emergency. The Homeland Security and Emergency Response unit provided staff and trucks to transport needed supplies (oxygen and food) to areas of need. DEP, in conjunction with the Bureau for Public Health made provision for landfills to remain open outside of normal operating hours and waived fees to assist in the cleanup. DEP also provided advice and guidance on the disposal of debris and waste collected in the aftermath of the storms.

What went well and why?

(What were the successful steps taken towards achieving your objective?)

SUCSESSES	HOW TO ENSURE SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE
Cooperation: Cooperation between state agencies is at the highest level that I, personally, have ever seen.	Continue the close working relationship between state agencies that has been engendered by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
Adaptation: This storm was unprecedented in both the type of emergency it caused and in the scope of the damage. The response community adapted quickly and competently to something that was outside the scope of our training and experience.	Recognize that state-wide disasters are a reality. Train and prepare for this type of problem in the future.

What can be improved and how?

(What could have been done better? What can your agency/commission do differently in similar situations in the future to ensure success? What would be your advice to future emergency response teams?)

WHAT CAN BE IMPROVED	RECOMMENDATIONS
Coordination: At the local level there was some confusion about the proper way to report needs and to get the help that was	Local (and in some cases county) level training on the reporting system that is already in place and how to use it to get what is needed. At the state level, communication and

